

**REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

This invention provides for, *inter alia*, a novel method for stripping optical fibers that avoids any rise in temperature thereby maintaining the mechanical and chemical integrity of the various elements that make up the fiber.

Claims 1-13 and 18-55 were pending in this application. Claims 18-55 are withdrawn from consideration. By the instant amendment, Claims 1, 2 and 3 have been amended. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-4 and 6-13 are currently pending in this application. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) Applicants petition the Director to extend the time period to file this response by three (3) months. A check in payment of the required fee for the extension is enclosed.

**Claim Objections**

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2 and 3 for certain informalities, and in response, claims 2 and 3 have been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error which led to the objections

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

**35 U.S.C. §102 (e) Rejection**

In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,582,527 to Marazzi.

35 U.S.C. §103 (a) Rejection

In paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,582,527 to Marazzi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,481,638 to Roll.

In connection with both the Section 103 and the Section 103 rejections, Applicant respectfully notes that in paragraph 7 of the Action, the Examiner advises that claims 5-9 contain allowable subject matter.

Without waiving their position as to the patentability of the original and cancelled subject matter, and without taking this opportunity to further address any of the cited documents in detail, and in order to expedite allowance of this application, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate language from allowable claim 5; claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice, and the remaining dependent claims have been revised to depend from claim 1. It is further noted for the record that Applicants reserve the right to file additional continuation and/or divisional applications to the cancelled subject matter.

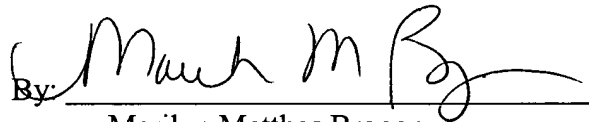
Accordingly, in view of the instant amendment to claim 1 and the various dependent claims, it is urged that the present claims are patentable over Marazzi and/or Roll, either alone or in any fair combination.

Therefore, withdrawal of the above § 102 and 103 rejections is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the instant amendment places this application into condition for allowance, and the early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited. Alternatively, it is believed that the instant submission places this application into better condition for purposes of appeal, and entry thereof is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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